Dismal standard of Indian graduates

108. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that higher education in the country is in a dismal state, as only nine per cent of Indian graduates are employed, while 50 per cent of the students do not have any understanding of the course they are studying;

(b) whether HRD Minister, at the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, admitted that higher education in India is a sick child and it is time to bring in the necessary changes; and

(c) if so, what were the recommendations made at the above mentioned conference and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government is not aware of any authentic study, which establishes that only 9% of Indian graduates are employed or that 50% of the students do not have any understanding of the course they are studying.

(b) Yes, Sir. Referring to the declining public investment in higher education over the years adversely affecting the university system, attention of participants at the Conference of Vice Chancellors was drawn to the need for remedial measures for strengthening higher education.

(c) Based on the common consensus arising out of the dicussion in the National Conference of the Vice Chancellors, focused attention shall be given on expansion of higher education, enhancement of access with quality, inclusion and relevance and introduction of academic and administrative reforms in universities and college system.

Obstacles in universalization of elementary education

109. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the path leading towards universalizing elementary education in the country is fraught with obstacles with States and Union Territory expressing their strong reservations towards the model Right to Education Bill, 2006; if so, whether Prime Minister has decided to set up a high-level Group to examine the legal, constitutional and financial implications of the Right to Education;

(b) whether the Group has already given its recommendations to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A High Level Group (HLG) comprising Minister of Human Resource Development, Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council was